

From: [Barbara Nann](#)
To: [Gary Miller](#); [Jessica Hernandez](#); [Anne Foster](#)
Subject: Fw: Texans Together August 2011
Date: 08/19/2011 01:45 PM

Barbara A. Nann
Assistant Regional Counsel
EPA Region 6 (6RC-S)
1445 Ross Avenue
Dallas, TX 75202
phone: (214) 665-2157
fax: (214) 665-6460
nann.barbara@epa.gov

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From: Texans Together <info@texanstgether.org>
To: Barbara Nann/R6/USEPA/US@EPA
Date: 08/19/2011 01:18 PM
Subject: Texans Together August 2011

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Civic Engagement* Community Building

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Donate

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Upcoming Events
Volunteer Opportunities

Upcoming Events

Reading Club - August 13th, 10:30AM-12:30PM



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Kingdom Fellowship Children Church Club - August 6th & 20th, 10AM-12PM

Resource Center Volunteer Orientation & Training -
August 25th, 10AM-11AM, 2PM-3PM

Apt #410 Community Garage Sale - August 27th, 8am-3pm, Apt #410

Soon to come:

ESL, GED, and kids and adults Tae Kwon Do lessons for residents

VOLUNTEER!

Magnolia Park

Garden work day Saturday 9-noon

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SHOUT OUT TO:

Broadway Church of Later Day Saints

On July 30th more than a dozen members of the Broadway Church of Later Day Saints came to the Magnolia Roots Community Garden to assist with a service project. They cleared vines from the fences and weeds from the ground along the southern and eastern edges of the garden so that we can turn them into vegetable beds. We planted sunflower seeds and squash which have all ready sprouted.



The Youngest Gardner's get Some Help

This summer we have made a lot of progress in cutting down some of the weed trees in the garden to allow for more sunlight and create space for building new beds. We have been working with a number of community groups, include to prepare for the construction of another 20 garden beds. Please feel free to drop by saturday mornings when we have volunteer projects at 8035 1/2 Ave E. Thanks go out to Broadway Church of Later Day Saints!

Highlands Star-Crosby Courier



The Highlands Star-Crosby Courier has been a leader in publicizing this story since the beginning, and even helped Texans Together hold public meetings in Highlands on the subject. We look forward to future oppourtunities to work with them on cleaning up the river and thank them for helping to bring this serious problem to the attention of the public. Click here to see thier site: www.starcouriernews.com.

Magnolia Roots Garden Thrives with Community Support



A good Day for Gardening

Magnolia Roots Community Garden serves as a venue for neighbors to gather and work together towards the common goal of growing healthy food and creating a beautiful garden space. Located in historic Magnolia Park and bordering the Houston Ship Channel, the garden features a modest set of raised beds currently growing herbs such as parsley, mint, and lavender, a variety of peppers, and eggplant. This community building through gardening is an effort that residents believe will foster food sustainability and self-empowerment.

With the help of the Museum of Cultural Arts Houston (MOCAH) residents of Magnolia Park came together to create a set of twelve mural panels reflecting the spirit of the garden and the history of the neighborhood. These panels were installed at Magnolia Roots during Earth Day, 2011. The art project and garden together indicate a pride in the community that reverberates through its residents. It is a space where families garden together and an afterschool and weekend outlet for student volunteers of various ages.

The goals are to take the garden and make it accessible to as many neighbors as possible. Unfortunately, the garden is situated on an abandoned lot, reclaimed through a lease from the city, and is heavily peppered by trees and persistent weeds. Garden members have taken the challenge and commitment to transition the overall space and convert it into an allotment garden in order to maximize the availability of land to the largest number of new members as possible. In this nascent stage Magnolia Roots is in need of the help of gardeners, sponsors, and volunteers. We, the aspiring gardeners and members of Magnolia Roots, would be grateful for anything that can contribute to our cause.

We hope that in one year we can write to you once again and update you on the achievements and successes we accomplished with your help.

San Jacinto River community seeks support from Baytown City Council

Residents concerned about the presence of dioxins in the waters of the San Jacinto Waste Pits gathered at the past Baytown City Council meeting that took place on July 28th in the city of Baytown.



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Baytown City Council Listens to Citizens

Jim Strouhal, a leader from the community who has resided in the area for over 60 years and has actively participated in this Texans Together Project, addressed the City Council seeking their support and a more active participation in the cleanup process. Strouhal also stated that “sampling and testing must be implemented in the contaminated area recently discover” and that “better communication between local government and citizens is needed” to prevent exposure.

The mayor of the City of Baytown, Stephen Don Carlos, expressed his support and responded to the community comments. He made clear that he is not satisfied with the current situation, “It won’t be a good situation, in my opinion, until all the dioxins are removed from the site”. “I would like to see some time frame in which they (EPA) go in and remove the dioxins that are there.”

Nonetheless, Don Carlos made evident his personal concern about whether the money spent on the time critical removal action was well spent or if it should have been used to take out the dioxins from the water, given the repercussions that a flooding event would have for the cap.

Texans Together will continue to work closely with Strouhal and other concerned residents in the area to obtaining the support of elected officials at local and state level to

ensure the wellbeing of the community will be a key factor in the cleanup decision making process.

If you would like to get involved please visit our website: [San Jacinto Waste Pits](http://SanJacintoWastePits.org) or email Diana.pena@texanstgether.org.

Fun in the Sun: At The Mint



Volunteers help Residents

On July 23rd the Mint apartments, along with Texans Together, organized a community event geared towards the resident. We had a great turn out with an estimated attendance of about two hundred community members. Our great team of volunteers came from Cross Nations World Wide, Kingdom Fellowship Christian Church and our residents from the Mint Apartments.

Many other organizations attended and added depth to our event. The Boy Scouts of America came out to do free enrollment for the boys at the Mint apartments. Ten newly recruited scouts will be going camping on August 8th! In addition, Bee Busy Inc is a non-profit organization that provides free STD testing and other health related programs that are geared in educating the community on being educated on the risk's of having unprotected sex. The University of Texas School of Public Health Prevention Research Center signed up 17 teenagers to work in the following months on creating a youth group that will work on researching innovative ways in creating solutions for issues affecting teens health wise. Amerigroup also came out and provided enrollment of CHIP and Medicaid and re-enrollment of children health coverage. Kingdom Fellowship Christian Church was present to sign children up for the Saturday Children Bible study and to volunteer. Cross Nations World Wide also very helpful in manning the concessions for the event and made sure popcorn, snow-cones, and cotton candy were available to all our attendees. We had great music and announcements about the vendors provided by Boyte

Booking Entertainment Agency.



Walking on the Moon

Finally , we also want to point out that The Kids Place Party Rentals provided two large moonwalks; one was a 30 foot tall water slide and the other was a 40 foot obstacle course. This topped off the event in making it very successful.

Overall, we attracted a large number of residents and even a few people that did not live at the Mint apartments. Residents and nonresidents learned about the event by word of mouth and through flyers. Everyone who came to the event had a great time and it really helped everyone feel like a part of the community. Due to the successful nature of the Fun Under The Sun event, we have been asked to plan for another event geared toward Back 2 School.



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